

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 326

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize Colonel Dennis J. Adams on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Dennis J. Adams has served his nation with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for his heroism both in the Guard and in society today; Colonel Adams retired on March 31, 2009, a day which marked the end of thirty-plus years of honorable service to the Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, a native of Gray, Dennis Adams attended Daniel Boone High School and the University of Tennessee (UT), where he played football; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Dennis Adams received his commission from the UT Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), and he began his military career as Cavalry Platoon Leader in Troop G, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Troop G 2/278 ACR) in Greeneville; in 1982, First Lieutenant Adams was assigned to Troop E 2/278 ACR in Morristown as the Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Adams became the Second Squadron Support Platoon Leader in Kingsport in 1984; he was promoted to Captain in 1985 and assumed command of Troop F 2/278 in Bristol and shortly thereafter, he was assigned as the Liaison Officer for the 278 ACR Headquarters in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, while still in Knoxville, Captain Adams was chosen as Commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop in 1987; and

WHEREAS, two years later, Captain Adams was assigned as the Assistant S-3 Second Squadron in Kingsport; he worked in Operations until he received a promotion to Major, whereupon he became S-3 Second Squadron Operations Officer; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Major Adams became the Second Squadron Executive Officer, a position he held until he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1999, at which time he assumed command of the Second Squadron, 278 ACR in Kingsport; and

WHEREAS, after a highly successful rotation at the National Training Center in California, Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Adams was made the S-3 Operations Officer of the 278 ACR in September 2002; and

WHEREAS, he received a promotion to the rank of Colonel in October 2003, and was selected as the Commander of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment; and

WHEREAS, shortly after assuming command of the 278 ACR, Colonel Dennis Adams led his troops during the largest deployment of a Tennessee National Guard unit since World War II when they were called upon to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, from 2004 to 2005, Colonel Adams served in North Central Iraq, where he was responsible for the deployment, training, and readiness of a force of over four thousand soldiers assigned to four squadrons, two battalions, and four separate companies; he was charged with the duty of simultaneously directing combat operations as well as support and stability operations, all of which were designed to permit Iraqis to assume responsibility for their own security; and

WHEREAS, under the Colonel's command, his soldiers trained and equipped more than ten thousand members of the Iraqi security forces, and he was also responsible for maintaining over a billion dollars worth of equipment; and

WHEREAS, once his tour of duty in Iraq was complete, Colonel Dennis Adams was selected to attend the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he earned a Master of International Studies; upon graduation, he was assigned to Joint Force Headquarters in Nashville as Director of J5/7 Operations, in which position he served until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, in his final assignment in Nashville, Colonel Adams served as the strategic planner for the Tennessee National Guard, developing and implementing a homeland defense plan for the State; he was also responsible for managing the 45th Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) and the Counterdrug Task Force; and

WHEREAS, a highly trained and thoroughly educated officer, Colonel Adams has completed several courses of study in addition to the Master of International Studies at the U.S. War College; these include the Command and General Staff Officers Course, the Senior Officer Logistics Management Course, the Tactical Commanders Development Course, the Armor Pre-Command Course, the Personnel Management for National Guard Supervisor Course, the Officer-in-Charge Course, the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel Administration and Personnel School, the Company Commanders Course, the M60A3-M1A1 Tank Commanders Course, the Master Fitness Course, the Armor Advanced Course, and the Cavalry and Armor Basic Course; and

WHEREAS, a highly decorated member of the Guard, Colonel Adams has received the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hourglass Device and "M" Device, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, and the Combat Action Badge; and

WHEREAS, he has also received a number of accolades specific to the Tennessee National Guard, including the Distinguished Unit Commendation, the Recruiting Merit Ribbon, the Outstanding Unit Performance Commendation with Bronze Service Star, the Commendation Ribbon, and the Individual Achievement Ribbon with One Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster; and

WHEREAS, the distinguished military career of Colonel Adams can only be categorized as outstanding, and his courage and competence are unquestioned; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Colonel Adams has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of the soldiers under his command, his fellow officers, and his superiors alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Colonel Dennis J. Adams our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.